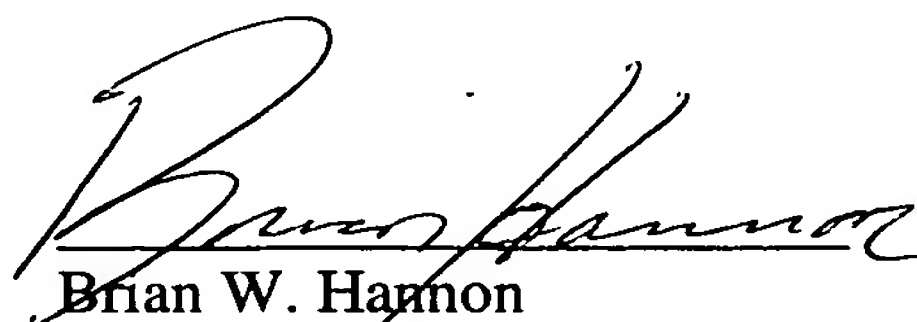


Preliminary Amendment  
PCT/IT2003/000366  
Attorney Docket Q85169  
December 13, 2004

**REMARKS**

The application has been amended to delete the multiple dependencies therein, to provide appropriate headings for the various sections of the specification, and to delete the erroneous improper second paragraph of the abstract. Entry and consideration of this Amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon  
Registration No. 32,778  
*for*

Robert V. Sloan  
Registration No. 22,775

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 13, 2004